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4701 WILLARD AVENUE, CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND 20815 (301) 656-4068

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PROGRAM Newsbreak

STATION WTOP Radio  
CBS Network

DATE October 24, 1984 8:41 A.M. CITY Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT Admiral Turner/CIA Manual

CHRISTOPHER GLENN: The government has issued a recall order. Not for some unsafe consumer product, but for that CIA manual which urges the neutralization of Nicaraguan government officials. A former CIA Director's thoughts coming up.

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GLENN: In the debate Sunday, President Reagan said those parts of a CIA psy-war manual dealing with assassination had been excised, but that a dozen or so of the originals had gotten out down there in Nicaragua. More than that, the CIA says, and they want them back.

Jimmy Carter's CIA Director was Stansfield Turner.

ADMIRAL STANSFIELD TURNER: What's really incredible here is what the President said on Sunday night, and that is that this manual was sent to CIA Headquarters for review. Then, yesterday, the CIA contradicted the President because it indicated that in that review at headquarters the paragraph concerning neutralization, a synonym for assassination, was not excised, it was left in and the manual was sent back and published to the Contras in Nicaragua.

GLENN: There have been, of course, specific instructions against this kind of thing for a number of years.

ADMIRAL TURNER: Well, 8 1/2 years ago President Ford issued the first presidential directive, in writing, saying that the CIA would not participate in assassinations, either directly or indirectly. Every President since has reaffirmed that same written instruction. It's incredible to me that the CIA would

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today have any Rip Van Winkles out there who haven't been listening for 8 1/2 years to this very explicit instruction.

GLENN: Now, you have to consider that Admiral Turner led the CIA in a Democratic Administration and the current brouhaha is an embarrassment to a Republican regime. But he does have some serious concerns.

ADMIRAL TURNER: Assassination, mining of harbors are really state-supported terrorism, such as we've been objecting to in the Middle East. It's our state providing support for people who are attacking innocent third parties.

GLENN: Had he still been in the CIA catbird seat, Turner says, such a booklet would have been different.

ADMIRAL TURNER: A regular manual would certainly not include some of these kinds of rather heinous activities, like assassination or like the silly comic book manual that the CIA also put out down there and which has not received as much publicity, but it talks about putting sponges in toilets to try to break down the economy of Nicaragua.

GLENN: And how would Stansfield Turner move to quell the current furor? With pink slips.

ADMIRAL TURNER: You have to simply dismiss the people who were involved in producing and reviewing this kind of a manual. You've got to make an example of people that the CIA does and has for many years now conformed with the regulations, conformed with the laws of the country.

GLENN: Stansfield Turner.